**Claims**

1. Refractory plate for a device for the insertion and/or removal of a nozzle for a casting installation combined with a sliding plate flow-control device comprising
a) a first surface (1) provided with an orifice (2) defining the entry of a casting channel (3) through the plate and able to form a sealing surface, at least around the orifice (2), with a face matching the face of a mobile plate of the flow-control device;
b) a second surface (4) adapted to rest in housing of the device and provided with a plane protuberance (5) circumscribing the casting channel (3) and extending through the bottom wall of the housing, and
c) a third surface (6) defined by the plane surface of the protuberance (5) provided with an orifice (7) defining the exit of the casting channel (3) through the plate,
the surface (6) being adapted
- to form a sealing surface, at least around the orifice (7), with a matching face of a refractory tube in casting position, and
- to act as guiding surface for the refractory tube from an introduction position to a casting position,
and being shaped so that the portion of the third surface (6) of the plate in contact with the matching surface of the refractory tube increases as the tube progresses from the introduction position to the casting position.
2. Refractory plate according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the third surface (6) is tip-shaped, the tip (8) being directed towards the introduction position of the refractory tube.
3. Refractory plate according to claim 2, **characterized in that** the third surface (6) is provided with a chamfer at the end of the tip (8).
4. Refractory plate according to claim 2, **characterized in that** the third surface (6) is provided with a chamfer on the side opposite to the end of the tip (8).
5. Refractory plate according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the third surface (6) is oval-shaped.
6. Refractory plate according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the third surface (6) is triangle shaped.
7. Refractory plate according to claim 1, **characterized in that** the third surface (6) is egg-shaped.
8. Refractory plate according to claim 1, **characterized in that** it is provided with inert gas supplying means.
9. Refractory plate according to claim 8, **characterized in that** the inert gas supplying means comprises a gas feeding line (9) and a circular groove (10) circumscribing the exit orifice (7) of the casting channel in the third surface (6).
10. Refractory plate according to claim 2, **characterized in that** the third surface (6) is provided with a second orifice (11) close to the end of the tip (8).